[*English*]

Rehabilitation of persons displaced due to National Test Range, Baliapal

5972. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to State:

(a) whether the Government have since prepared a revised and comprehensive plan for the rehabilitation of the persons to be displaced at Baliapal, Orrissa for the setting up of the National Test Range; and

(b) if so, the details thereof with estimated cost?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b). A Comprehensive rehailitation plan for families likely to be displaced from National Range site was prepared in 1986. It covers resettlement of displaced families in model villages and providing them employment opportunities in special shcemes to be set up for this purpose. The overall cost of rehabilitation plan was estimated to be Rs. 172 crores. This plan has not been revised.

House rent allowance for Central Government Employees in Lakshadweep

5973. SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Lakshdweep has been classified as an expensive locality as per the provisions of service Rule 51;

(b) whether the Travelling Allowance and Dearness Allowance are paid to the Central Government employees in Lakshdweep under the above rule;

(c) whether the House Rent allowance is paid to these employees at non-classified rates;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government propose to raise the rate of the House Rent Allowance for the Central Government employees in Lakshdweep as allowed in the expensive localities; and

(f) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE): (a) and (b). Under Rule 51 of the Supplementary Rules, Lakshadweep has been classified as expensive territory for purposes of Travelling Allowance and Daily Allowance only.

(c) and (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

(e) and (f) As per extent criterion, the cities/towns are classified for the purposes of the House Rent Allowance on the basis of their population as reflected in the decennial census and not on the basis of expensiveness of any place.

Export of Iron ore to Japan

5974. SHRI ARVIND NETAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the agreement was signed between India and Japan last year to export iron ore from Bailadila iron ore mines;

(b) if so, the details of the agreement alongwith the period for which it is valid and the rates prescribed for the export of iron ore; and

(c) the foreign exchange earned during the first six months after the agreement was signed?